a package of measures including a "special rapporteur" to strengthen the monitoring mechanism to prevent recurrence of starvation deaths, as they took place in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh in recent years; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission investigated cases of starvation deaths in certain districts of Orissa only and arrived at the view that certain interim measures should be undertaken over a period of 2 years subject to such periodic reviews as the Commission may consider appropriate and necessary. This included appointment of a Special Rapporteur for these districts in order to keep the Commission fully informed of developments in respect of the concerned districts. The directions of the Commission mainly concern the Government of Orissa. However, as directed by the Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has continued the Emergency Feeding Programme upto 30.4.98. The Department has, accordingly, asked the Government of Orissa to continue this Programme till that date, on the pattern prevailing before September, 1997.

Violence by PWG in states

1587. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that People's War Group (PWG) or the Naxalites continue to indulge in violent acts in bordering areas of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the persons killed/wounded and properties destroyed by People's War Group (PWG) in each of these States during the past one year;

(c) whether all the three States have ever discussed the issue jointly so as to take joint action against People's War Group (PWG) with the help of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government and concerned States to eliminate People's War Group (PWG) menace?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available details of incidents of violence perpetrated by the PWG during 1997 in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are as under:

(i) Andhra Pradesh	—257 persons killed and 337 injured; 111 Government vehicles, 55 Government buildings 11 Railway Stations, 17 telephone exchanges, 46 private vehicles and 57 private buildings damaged/ destroyed.
(ii) Maharashtra	—9 persons killed and property worth Rs. 57.5 lakhs damaged.
(iii) Madhya Pradesh	14 persons killed and property worth Rs. 3.16 crore damaged.

(c) and (d) Regular Co-ordination meetings are held among these affected states to discuss the problem and appropriate decisions, taken to tackle the menace, which includes organising joint combing operations in the bordering areas, exchange of information on the movements of cadres, improvement of communication facilities, laying border roads etc.

(e) Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State

Governments has drawn up an Action Plan in this regard, which includes the following measures:

(i) ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in Naxalite affected areas;

(ii) to have a common communication system;

(iii) set up a Control Room in each State;

(iv) Joint patrolling,

(v) Launching of Area Domination Programme among the States.

(vi) Central Government have also arranged for training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations; and

(vii) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned states.

State Governments have been requested to initiate steps to implement the Action Plan. The action taken by the States is being reviewed from time to time.

Crimes Against Women in Maharashtra

1588. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra has earned notoriety in crimes against women in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the crimes committed against women in the State during the last two years, year-wise with particular reference to rapes, molestations, kidnappings, murders, dowry deaths etc.;

(c) whether Government have given any advice or directive to the State Government to take stringent action to prevent crimes against women in the State; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The incidence, percentage share and crime rate in respect of Maharashtra as compared to the country as a whole during the last two years, i.e., 1996 and 1997, were as under:—

Crime Against Women during 1996 & 1997

Year	Maharashtra			All India	
	Incidence	% share	Crime rate	Incidence	Crime rate
1996	16567	14.3	18.9	115723	12.4
1997	15689	13.9	17.6	113073	11.9

(b) Relevant information is given below:—

Year	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Dowry deaths	Cruelty by husband & relatives	Molestation	Sexual harassment (eve-teasing)
1996	1444	732	443	9156	3227	870
1997	1206	968	384	7610	3117	974